(b) if so, whether 30 per cent hike is attributed to cultivation of raw material for bio-fuel; and

(c) whether this major factor is being taken into consideration while formulating policy for alternative sources of fuels so that people are not pushed to poverty due to availability of reduced land for food crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) World Bank has observed that the price of staple crops have increased leading to 83% increase in world food prices in last three years due to increased demand, poor weather in some countries and increase in the use of land to grow crops for transport fuels. However, in India, yearly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with Base Year 1993-94=100 has increased from 195.3 in 2005-06 to 239.8 in 2008-09 showing an increase of 22.78 per cent.

(c) Yes, Sir. Regarding the anticipated food shortages, the concerns have been taken care of by the National Mission on Bio-diesel, wherein bio-fuel cultivation has been proposed only on wastelands and degraded forest lands, which are not suitable for production of food grains and other agricultural crops. As such, the apprehension of availability of reduced land for food crops due to production of bio-fuel is misplaced.

National Horticulture Mission in Goa

1526. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Horticulture Mission has been launched in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the activities undertaken in the State under the scheme;

(c) the financial assistance given to the State since launching of the scheme;

(d) the area brought under cultivation under the scheme, types of horticulture crops raised and the areas in the State covered under the scheme; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Horticulture Mission has been launched in the State of Goa during 2005-06. The activities undertaken in the State under the scheme include establishment of model & small nurseries in the public and private sector, establishment of new gardens through area expansion of potential horticulture crops, rejuvenation of old and senile orchards, adoption & certification of organic farming, promotion of integrated pest management and integrated nutrient management and human resource development.

(c) A sum of Rs. 618.84 lakhs has been given as financial assistance to the State of Goa from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

(d) and (e) An area of 1426.59 ha covering different horticulture crops has been brought under cultivation in the State of Goa. Different types of horticulture crops raised in the State include Cashew, Mango, Kokum, Sapota, Banana, Pineapple, Spices, Medicinal Plants and Flowers. The area expansion and rejuvenation of Cashew has been taken up in the Taluka of Sanguem, Quepem, Canacona, Sattari and Pernem. Floriculture has been taken up in the areas of Salcete, Marmugao, Tiswadi and Bardez. Area expansion of Spices like Pepper and Nutmeg has been taken up in the areas of Ponda, Bicholim, Sanguem and Sattari. The area expansion of Banana and Pineapple has been taken up in the areas of Bicholim, Sattari, Ponda, Sanguem, Quepem and Canacona.

Co-operative education and training schemes

1527. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for giving co-operative education and training;

(b) if so, name of the scheme/schemes;

(c) since when the scheme/schemes are in force;

(d) essential features of the schemes;

(e) whether the scheme(s) is in force in the State of Goa;

(f) if so, the financial assistance if any given to the State of Goa or other bodies for implementing the scheme;

(g) the activities carried out in the State under the scheme; and

(h) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Co-operative Education and training through National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT). This Scheme is in operation from IIIrd Five year Plan. Government of India is providing 100% grants-in-aid to NCUI to implement special scheme for intensification of cooperative education in the cooperatively under-developed States/areas of developed States and 20% of the grants-in-aid for the approved activities of the NCUI and 100% grants-in-aid to NCCT for implementing the training programmes through its constituent units i.e. Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management, Pune (VAMNICOM), five (5) Regional Institutes of Cooperative Management (RICMs) and fourteen (14) Institutes of Cooperative Management (JCMs) situated throughout the country.

(e) to (h) The training needs in the State of Goa is being catered to by Dr. V.V. Patil Institute of Cooperative Management located at Pune and co-operative education field project a Ponda in Goa. Besides, Government of India is also providing financial assistance to Junior Cooperative Training